

PRESIDENT ON THE GRIDIRON

ALSO UNCLE JOE BALLINGER AND PINCHOT.

An Order for Hash is Thrown on the Floor Because the Walter Heard It Called "Roosevelt Policies"—Takeoff of the Peary-Cook Polar Controversy.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—President Taft was the Gridiron Club's guest of honor at the club's December dinner, held to-night in the banquet hall of the New Willard Hotel. Mr. Taft sat at the right of President Henry Hall of the club, and on Mr. Hall's left was Vice-President Sherman. At the several tables, arranged so as to give semblance to the shape of a gridiron, were members of the Diplomatic Corps, Cabinet officers, Senators and Representatives in Congress, Governors of States, public officials, officers of the army, the navy and the Marine Corps, editors and writers, financiers and many men of national prominence.

There were songs and skits from the oysters to the coffee and short speeches by President Taft and some others. Nearly all the speakers were introduced through the medium of topical songs. The fun making of this organization of Washington correspondents all had to do with matters of national importance or interest, and no occasion was lost to get in good natured digs at the most notable guests, who enjoyed the sallies at their own expense as much as their fellow diners did.

Members of the club posing as politicians gathered in front of the place where the President sat and sang the song which gave President Hall the opportunity of introducing Mr. Taft in an appropriate manner. There was a solo and a chorus to the tune of "I Love My Wife, But Oh You Kid." This is the way the chorus went:

We love, we love, we love Roosevelt,
But oh, you Taft,
He's gone away to Af-ri-ca,
But oh, you Taft,
He said he would come back again
And thereupon we laughed.
We love, we love, we love Roosevelt,
But oh, you Taft.

One of the skits had to do with President Taft's expressed desire for beef and cabbage after he had been fed to surfeit with fancy dishes on his recent 13,000 mile journey. An Alaskan restaurant keeper, sent to Washington by Gov. Clark of that Territory for the purpose of appearing with his chef to get pointers for entertaining the President on his expected visit to Alaska next year. When the President's desire for plain foods was made known to the Alaskans they promised with enthusiasm to execute orders at once, just to show what they could do. The chef went to the kitchen and took the orders from his boss, who was an adept in the slang nomenclature of cheap eating houses.

Capt. Archibald W. Butt, Mr. Taft's military aide and the guardian of the President's digestion, made known through a club member that "a distinguished guest who didn't want his name mentioned" would like a plate of hash with red peppers and tobacco sauce. "Roosevelt's policies for one!" shouted the restaurant keeper to his chef.

Postmaster-General Hitchcock asked for something he enjoyed very much in the last political campaign, when he was chairman of the Republican national committee. It was breast of chicken with wings attached and boiled dumplings. "Angel with the dough!" was the restaurant man's order, and the guests heard the loud voiced chef verifying it back in the kitchen with "Charles P. Taft for one!"

Speaker Cannon wanted to get his teeth on something that would remind him of Representative Murdock of Kansas, the red haired insurgent leader of the House. "One red headed duck and let the blood drip!" was the order to the chef. Then there was Attorney-General Wickham, who sent word that he had a taste for lobster with the claws removed. His order went to the kitchen as "One basted trout!" "Oh, sugar!" was the chef's comment.

At one point in these proceedings a French waiter threw the hash order on the floor because he objected to having it called "Roosevelt's policies." "Get his name and we'll have him fired!" demanded the restaurant man.

"He says his name is Pinchot," answered the chef. "Oh, that makes a difference; they'll never fire Pinchot," the restaurant man declared.

President Taft finally mustered up courage, or at least one of the club members said so, to ask if there was any possum. There was, and it was ordered promptly. "One Uncle Joe!" shouted the restaurant keeper to the chef, while everybody laughed at the expense of Speaker Cannon. The possum got away, however, and no more orders could be served. "But we've got to give these people something to eat!" cried the restaurant keeper in despair. The chef, however, was equal to the occasion. He announced that he was missing. "Thanksgiving pie of gigantic size which had been sent to the White House by New York pie bakers and had never reached there had been found. 'The pie is here,' he added. The pie was brought in and placed in front of the table at which President Taft sat.

"What kind of a pie is it?" asked President Hall.

"It's a Roosevelt pie," answered the chef, and as he said it the pie crust broke and through it came the figure of a stout man attired in khaki, with a large eyeglasses and shining ivory identified him instantly as a noted faunal naturalist now in Africa.

A party of suffragettes beating a bass drum and shouting "Votes for Women!" entered the hall accompanied by their meek husbands. They made the husbands say that Joan of Arc was the greatest General in the history of the world and that women amounted to more than men did, and called on Senator Aldrich, Speaker Cannon, Postmaster-General Hitchcock and Senator Beveridge to declare for woman suffrage. These four public men were unsatisfactory performers, however. The suffragettes had declared their intention to remain through the dinner, but when stomach pumps ordered by President Hall were brought in for the purpose of feeding them the suffragettes took to their heels.

Another skit was a battle royal in a twenty-four foot square ring. The next Nelson Aldrich, the Rhode Island terror, who has put the wallop over on every suit he's ever gone up against; Kid Cummings, the Iowa Democrat, "fresh from the cornfields, out for a reputation"; Achilles Ballinger, the Siwaah Sirocco, "bully boy of the Alaska coal fields"; Off Pinchot, the fighting lumberjack, "who fears no foe, not even the Constitution"; Joe Cannon, the Danville Bantam, "fresh from his finish fight with the W. C. T. U." and Herby Parsons, the Candy Kid, "who weighed in as a lightweight on his own scales."

All the fighters were attired in ring costumes and wore boxing gloves. When they were searched by the referee Ballinger had a lump of coal for Pinchot which he said was given to him by President Taft, and Pinchot had an axe for Ballinger which he declared had been furnished by the President. Parsons had a bag of sugar and Cannon a bundle of poker chips. Just as the fight was about to begin Henry Hatchfield, West, one of the District of Columbia Commissioners,

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Well known educators took part in the dedication yesterday of the city's new \$1,500,000 Parental School, where, under improved educational methods, bad boys are to be made good. Far removed from the zone of temptation the new school enterprise, with its two administration buildings costing \$100,000 each and three community cottages costing \$25,000 each and surrounded by 300 acres of land which in time will prove one of the garden spots of the city's educational holdings, is located on Jamaica avenue midway between the villages of Flushing and Jamaica in the third ward of the borough of Queens.

In addition to the educators 108 pupils of the alleged incorrigible type who are undergoing reformation at the new school took part in the dedicatory exercises. Out of this array of chronic truants and boys addicted to other infractions of educational and civic discipline fifty appeared in navy blue uniforms to the envy of their less fortunate classmates. Reversing the custom of reformatory institutions, where the uniform marks the offender, at the Parental School it is a sign of merit; only boys who attain a certain standard in studies and in conduct are eligible to wear it, and every boy in the place aspires to get himself a uniform.

The dedicatory exercises were held in the assembly room of the school. Addresses were made by Egerton L. Winthrop, president of the Board of Education; City Superintendent William H. Maxwell, Dr. Louis Haupt, chairman of the special schools; J. H. Wilson, chairman of the committee on buildings; C. B. J. Snyder, superintendent of buildings; and Assistant City Superintendent Shallow, who is in charge of compulsory education. The school is under the direction of Supt. Hobart H. Todd, and educators in all parts of the world are interested in the outcome of the experiment.

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"I fear not," he answered. "President Taft and Secretary Ballinger have both tried it."

Just then a club member exposed the two initiates as impostors, but it was decided that as there was no evidence that the candidates had not discovered the pole they should be admitted to the Gridiron Club.

The largest in point of attendance in the club's history. Covers were laid for 252. Among the guests were Gen. Felix Agnus of Baltimore, Senator Aldrich, "Private" John Allen of Tupelo, Howard E. Altman of Philadelphia, Secretary Ballinger, Dr. John Barrett of the Bureau of American Republics, Representative Bartholdt of Missouri, Senator Beveridge, Representative Burleigh of Maine, George W. Brown of Boston, Capt. A. W. Butt, Timothy E. Byrnes of Boston, Fred W. Carpenter, Speaker Cannon, John H. Carroll of St. Louis, Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester, Robert D. Clarke of Peoria, Representative Cooper of Pennsylvania, Senator Cummins, Chester M. Dawes of Chicago, Representative Deuby of Michigan, Senator Dewey, Representative Douglas of Ohio, Gen. Clarence R. Edwards, ex-Gov. Magoon of Missouri, Representative Graham of Pennsylvania, Gov. Hadley of Missouri, Gov. Harmon of Ohio, ex-Gov. Myron T. Herrick of Ohio, Postmaster-General Hitchcock, L. E. Holden of Cleveland, Representative Hull of Iowa, Representative Huff of Pennsylvania, Representative James of Kentucky, George H. Lorimer of Philadelphia, Senator Lorimer, Representative Lowden of Illinois, Senator McHenry, Representative McKinley of Illinois, Charles G. Magoon, Representative Moon of Pennsylvania, Secretary Nagel, Truman H. Newberry of Detroit, Senator Newlands, A. K. Oliver of Pittsburgh, Chief Forester Gifford Pinchot, Representative Randall of Louisiana, Dr. Paul Ritter, the Swiss Minister; Representative Roberts of Massachusetts, Victor Roosevelt of Omaha, Representative Smith of Iowa, Representative Stevens of Minnesota, Representative Tawney of Minnesota, Charles P. Taft of Cincinnati, the Marquis de Villalobar